CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 47 – The Church in Canada

1. *Early History*
   a. *The early history of Canada is inextricably interwoven with the histories of France and England and with the missionary zeal of the Roman Catholic Church*
2. *The Roman Catholic Church*
   a. *Champlain in 1615 called in the Recollet Fathers from France who, being unable to man all the mission posts among the Indians, in 1625 called on the Jesuits for help. When Quebec fell to the English under David Kirke in 1629, all the missionaries returned to France until 1632.*
   b. *Ville Marie, now Montreal, was founded in 1642 for the "glory of God and the establishment of religion in New France.'' But this was a decade of martyrdom for many an explorer-priest Wealth Influences the Church*
3. *The Presbyterian Church*
   a. *Canadian Presbyterians trace their descent to many sources. A Huguenot settlement in the seventeenth century failed, but Huguenots came along with other Loyalists during the American Revolution. Protestants came to Nova Scotia in 1749 and again in 1755 after the expulsion of the Acadians. Large numbers of Presbyterians came from Scotland and North Ireland during the first half of the nineteenth century. These, as well as those who came from England and the United States, clung to their many ancestral subdivisions*
4. *Other Churches*
   a. *The Methodist Church followed a similar pattern. Methodists came to Canada in 1770 from England and the United States. Until the War of 1812, Canadian Methodism was closely connected with that of the United States. There were five principal Methodist bodies until they united in 1883. In 1925 they formed one of the constituent parts of the United Church. The United Church is now the largest Protestant Church in Canada, followed in size by the Anglican Church.*

   b. *Some Baptists came from the colonies before the American Revolution. Their number was augmented by Loyalist refugees. Traditional independentism has made it difficult to form associations. Besides the religious communions listed, the following deserve mention as forming sizable groups in Canada: Lutheran, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Ukranian (Greek) Catholic, Mennonite, Pentecostal, and the Salvation Army*

5. *The Anglican Church*

   a. *The Anglican Church in Canada began with the settlement of Nova Scotia in 1749. Many of the Loyalists who came from the American colonies during and after the revolution were members of the Church of England*

   b. *The Church was totally controlled from England until, after much discussion, the Canadian bishops in 1857 determined to have their own synods*

6. *The Reformed Churches*

   a. *Of the churches subscribing to Reformed creeds at least five have organized into separate denominations. The largest and oldest of these is the Christian Reformed, some of whose congregations were established as early as 1905. Until World War II, however, their number was only thirteen, their real numerical growth coming after 1946 when thousands of Reformed people from the Netherlands began to come to Canada. In 1981 membership in the Christian Reformed Church in Canada stood at 80,359 souls, with 196 congregations served by 192 pastors. It is still in transition, troubled by language difficulties, finding its place in Canadian society, and trying to be a Reformed church in a land where religious distinctiveness is not highly prized. Its people have responded to the challenge of a secularized culture by founding Christian primary and secondary schools.*